

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Previously Presented) The piece of baggage of claim 7, wherein:
the towing member is connected to the base for pivoting movement of the towing member in a multiple of planes relative to the base.
3. (Previously Presented) The piece of baggage of claim 2, wherein:
the joint comprises a ball-and-socket joint.
4. (Previously Presented) The piece of baggage of claim 7, wherein:
the towing member is curved and is connected to the base intermediate the at least two wheels.
5. (Previously Presented) The piece of baggage of claim 7, wherein:
the towing member is comprised of at least two portions that telescope so as to allow the towing member to extend and retract in a telescoping manner.
6. (Original) The piece of baggage of claim 5, wherein:
the two portions of the towing member are curved.
7. (Currently Amended) A piece of baggage comprising:

a pack constructed of flexible material, the flexible material enclosing a hollow interior of the pack;

a rigid base attached to the pack;

at least two wheels mounted for rotation to the rigid base;

a rigid towing member connected to the base by a joint, said joint allowing pivoting movement of the towing member relative to the base; and

a resiliently flexible backing sheet attached to the towing member for movement of the backing sheet with the towing member relative to the base, the backing sheet also being attached to the inside of the pack.

8. (Previously Presented) The piece of baggage of claim 7, wherein:

the backing sheet is attached to the towing member via a channel portion that allows the backing sheet to pivot about the towing member.

9. (Previously Presented) The piece of baggage of claim 7, wherein:

the extendable towing member is comprised of a single-pole telescoping member.

10–11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) A piece of baggage which may be worn on the back comprising:

a pack for receiving and carrying objects;

at least two wheels mounted for rotation on the pack and for supporting the pack when the pack is being towed;

a towing handle attached to the pack by a curved, telescoping member, the telescoping member allowing the handle to be selectively extended from the pack and retracted back toward the pack along an arcuate path relative to the pack, the towing handle being attached to a single-pole, telescoping member comprised of a non-extending portion and at least one extending portion slideably attached to the non-extending portion for relative telescoping movement of the non-extending portion and the extending portion; and

a resiliently flexible backing sheet attached to the non-extending portion of the telescoping member, the backing sheet being positioned between the non-extending portion of the telescoping member and a side of the pack that rests against a person's back when the pack is worn as a backpack, the backing sheet also being attached to the side of the pack.

13. (Previously Presented) The piece of baggage of claim 12, wherein:

the backing sheet is attached to the non-extending portion of the telescoping member via a channel portion that allows the backing sheet to pivot about the non-extending portion of the telescoping member.

14–15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A piece of baggage for use as a backpack, the piece of baggage comprising:

a pack constructed of a flexible material, the flexible material enclosing a hollow interior of the pack;

at least two shoulder straps attached to said pack on a first side, said shoulder straps enabling a user to carry said pack on their back;

a rigid base attached to a bottom of the pack; and

a backing sheet attached to said first side of the pack that rests against the user's back when the piece of baggage is worn as a backpack, the backing sheet and the rigid base being twistable relative to each other via the flexible material ~~fabrie~~.

17. (Original) The piece of baggage of claim 16, wherein:

the backing sheet has a contoured surface that conforms to a user's back when the piece of baggage is worn as a backpack.

18. (Previously Presented) The piece of baggage of claim 16 can be used as a backpack and as a hand towed piece of baggage, the piece of baggage further comprising:

at least two wheels mounted for rotation to the rigid base;

a single-pole towing member operatively connected to the rigid base intermediate the at least two wheels; and

the backing sheet is attached to the single-pole towing member for pivoting movement of the backing sheet about the single pole member.

19. (Original) The piece of baggage of claim 18, wherein:

the single-pole towing member is attached to the rigid base by a pivot connection enabling the single-pole towing member to pivot relative to the base.

20. (Original) The piece of baggage of claim 18, wherein:

the single-pole towing member is curved and telescopes in an arcuate path between extended and retracted positions relative to the pack.

21. (Currently Amended) A piece of baggage comprising:

a pack for receiving and carrying objects;

at least two wheels mounted for rotation on the pack and for supporting the pack when the pack is being towed; and

a towing handle attached to the pack by a curved, telescoping member, the telescoping member allowing the handle to be selectively extended upwardly and forwardly from the pack and retracted back toward the pack along an arcuate path curved away from the pack;

~~The piece of baggage of claim 11 can be used as a backpack and as a hand towed piece of baggage, the piece of baggage further comprising:~~

a resiliently flexible backing sheet attached to the non-extending portion of the telescoping member, the backing sheet being positioned between the non-extending portion of the telescoping member and a side the pack that rests against a person's back when the pack is worn as a backpack, the backing sheet also being attached to the side of the pack;

wherein the towing handle is attached to a single-pole, telescoping member comprised of a non-extending portion and at least one extending portion slideably attached to the non-extending portion for relative telescoping movement of the non-extending portion and the extending portion.

22. (Previously Presented) The piece of baggage of claim 21, wherein:

the backing sheet is attached to the non-extending portion of the telescoping member in a manner that allows the backing sheet to pivot about the non-extending portion of the telescoping member.

23. (Currently Amended) A piece of baggage comprising:

a pack for receiving and carrying objects;

at least two wheels mounted for rotation on the pack and for supporting the pack when the pack is being towed; and

a towing handle attached to the pack by a curved, telescoping member, the telescoping member allowing the handle to be selectively extended upwardly and forwardly from the pack and retracted back toward the pack along an arcuate path curved away from the pack;

wherein the at least two wheels have a common axis and the telescoping member is operatively attached to the pack via a joint in a manner that allows the telescoping member to pivot relative to the axis of the wheels, and

~~The piece of baggage of claim 14~~ wherein said joint comprises a ball-and-socket joint.